

FEATURE

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH PIER
REBUILT BIGGER, BETTER

1C



TUESDAY

OCTOBER 16, 2001

1882
SINCE



SPORTS

CREECH, PARRISH
LEAD PANTHERS

1B

The Smithfield Herald

SMITHFIELD ■ SELMA ■ CLAYTON ■ FOUR OAKS ■ BENSON ■ KENLY ■ PRINCETON ■ PINE LEVEL ■ MICRO ■ WILSON'S MILLS

HOME DELIVERY 35¢/SINGLE COPY 50¢ PHONE: 934-2176 FAX: 989-7093 120TH YEAR/NO. 83

'Don't give in to fear'

Two weeks after the terrorist attacks on America, a Pine Level woman travels to Israel.

BY LINDA MARTINEZ
STAFF REPORTER

PINE LEVEL — When Yvonne Slaney arrived at Raleigh-Durham International Airport on Sept. 27, she had no qualms about boarding a plane destined for Israel.

"I was not afraid," said Slaney, 69. "I've probably had more peace of mind on this trip than in the past."

Slaney, the founder of Bountiful Christian Fellowship Inc. in Pine Level, was making her fourth trip to Israel to "give more support and love" to the people there. She made the trip despite the reservations of her daughter.

"I said I am going as long as the door stays open," she said.

Slaney took comfort in increased airport security, but more than that, she relied on faith

to help her cross the Atlantic Ocean safely. "I think if you are traveling under the conditions that you are today, you almost know ... that God is protecting you," she said.

Still, Slaney said airport security eased passenger concerns. "Security can be a hassle, but you understand the necessity of it," she said. "It does play a part in how secure you feel. You think of the possibilities, but at the same time, you feel safe."

At RDU, new security measures kept Slaney's daughter

from accompanying her to her departure gate. Overseas, security was equally tight, especially at Customs, where personnel combed through Slaney's baggage.

"In Israel, they are always stricter with security because they have dealt with terrorism for 50 years," Slaney said.

But after the Sept. 11 attacks on America, Israel stepped up its security even more, Slaney said. Security personnel checked her



Yvonne Slaney displays a prayer shawl she purchased in Israel.

HERALD PHOTO
BY BECKY
KIRKLAND

SEE ISRAEL, PAGE 5-A

Israel

Continued from Page 1-A

bags every time she went to a Jerusalem convention center, where she was taking part in the Feast of the Tabernacle.

During the festival, Slaney met the President of Israel, the mayor of Jerusalem and heard a speech by Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime

minister. Slaney said that the Israeli leaders expressed their sympathy over what had happened in America. And the men thanked the 4,000 people who had traveled from outside of Israel to attend the festival.

"They knew we came at a risk," Slaney said. "They knew we came under tightened security."

Slaney says she never felt anxious or concerned while traveling

through Israel. The Israelis, she said, welcomed Americans on their soil.

"They depend greatly on America," Slaney said. "They do look to us. We're about their only friend in the world."

If Slaney had to fly again soon, she says she would. "In Israel, their philosophy is 'Don't give in to fear,'" Slaney said. "If you do, the enemy has already won."